

AS I SEE IT

LISA ADKINS ON TEACHERS

NO NEED TO WAIT FOR BETTER MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

Recent *Kansas City Star* articles have brought attention to the critical need for improving science and math education in the nation's elementary and middle schools — and for Congress to advance legislation that could help remedy the crisis.

Fortunately, there is something local businesses can do immediately to advance math, engineering, technology and science education in Greater Kansas City.

Through the YouthFriends TeacherTech program, 35 local teachers are currently participating in hands-on, summer “externships” with businesses throughout Greater Kansas City.

Through these full-time, paid



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opportunities in these fields.

They will transfer this knowledge to thousands of students in their classrooms this fall.

With technology progressing at such a rapid rate, these experiences are invaluable to teachers — and they simply are not available within the walls of the classroom. Many externs tell us it is

experiences, teachers are completing important projects for employers and gaining exposure to cutting-edge technologies, advancements and career op-

portunities. impossible to receive the same level of exposure to workplace advancements without these opportunities.

Our goal next summer is to connect more than 100 teachers to externships in Greater Kansas City. I encourage interested employers to contact me directly at 816-268-3355 to get involved.

More information also is available at www.uplinkthefuture.org.

We don't have to wait on Congress to begin advancing math, engineering, technology and science education in Greater Kansas City.

Together, we can do it now.

Lisa Adkins is president of YouthFriends. She lives in Leawood.